

TheBigSource

July 2016

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EU REFERENDUM 2016

On the 23rd June 2016 there was an advisory referendum on whether the UK should remain within the European Union. The result of the referendum was a 52% majority in favour of leaving the European Union. The Prime Minister, David Cameron, resigned and was replaced by Theresa May (13th July 2016).

In the table below are the key cabinet post holders in the new government.

Post	Postholder
Prime Minister	Theresa May
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Philip Hammond
Home Secretary	Amber Rudd
Foreign Secretary	Boris Johnson
Defence Secretary	Michael Fallon
Justice Secretary	Elizabeth Truss
Education Secretary	Justine Greening
Brexit Secretary	David Davis
International Trade Secretary	Liam Fox
Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy	Greg Clark
Health Secretary	Jeremy Hunt
Work and Pensions Secretary	Damian Green
Transport Secretary	Chris Grayling
Communities/Local Government Secretary	Sajid Javed

A full list of cabinet and government post holders, and profiles can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/ministers>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics->

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BUDGET 2016

On 16th March 2016, the Chancellor of the Exchequer published the Government's 2016 budget.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2016-documents/budget-2016>

Summaries and analyses of the budget can be found at various sources including:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-35753169>

<http://www.ifs.org.uk/events/1276>

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/chancellors-budget-giveaways-failed-support-all-out-assault-poverty>

Phillip Hammond, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer has indicated that the budget will be reviewed at the time of the autumn statement in light of the changed economic conditions arising from the referendum result.

QUEEN'S SPEECH (2016)

In May 2016, The Queen's Speech was published; this sets out the government's policies and proposed legislative programme for the new parliamentary session. However owing to the change of government leadership in July 2016 resulting from the referendum result, priorities may now change. Briefing notes can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/524040/Queen_s_Speech_2016_background_notes_.pdf

GM DEVOLUTION UPDATE

Greater Manchester Strategy Annual Performance Report

On 29th July 2016, the draft annual GM strategy performance report was presented to the joint GMCA/AGMA executive.

https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/286/joint_gmcaagma_executive_board

This report summarises last year's progress in delivering the **Greater Manchester Strategy: Stronger Together**

Fourth GM Devolution Agreement

As part of the March budget, a fourth GM devolution agreement was announced. This agreement included the following elements

- Pilot for 100% retention of business rates
- Establishment of a **Life Chances Investment Fund** (April 2017); aligning funding from several budgets including the **Troubled Families Programme**, **Working Well pilot** and the **Cabinet Office Life Chances Fund**
- **Economic Growth:** Greater Manchester will be given the power to establish a single pot for investment in economic growth, pooling transport funding with Local Growth Funding and the £30m per annum investment fund established as part of Greater Manchester's "earn back" deal.
- **Criminal Justice:** Greater Manchester will be able to make more decisions around criminal justice, specifically in the commissioning of offender management services

- **Adult Skills:** From 2018-2019, the 19+ adult skills budget will be devolved in full

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/508116/Further_Devolution_to_Greater_Manchester_Combined_Authority_FINAL.pdf

Consultation on Devolved Powers

Greater Manchester Combined Authority are currently undertaking a public consultation (Deadline 15th August 2016) on new devolved powers that the GM is seeking. These powers cover a number of areas:

- Fire and Rescue Services
- Waste Disposal
- Education, skills and Employment Support
- Transport
- Planning
- Overview and Scrutiny
- Equalities

<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/devopowersconsultation>

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

In March 2016, further powers and responsibilities were announced giving the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority additional new powers over transport, piloting the 100% business rates retention approach across the Liverpool City Region, plus working in partnership with the Government on children's services, health, housing and justice.

The functions and governance arrangements of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, were reviewed. Additionally, specific powers to be devolved from Government and directly elected Mayor, were set out in a Scheme. The

review and scheme have been published.

http://liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/Liverpool_City_Region_Combined_Authority_Governance_Review_Scheme_June_2016.pdf

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect

The Home Office and Department for Education have launched a public consultation exercise on whether statutory measures should be introduced for reporting and acting on child abuse and neglect.

The consultation, which runs until *13th October 2016*, seeks views from the public, practitioners and professionals on the case for the possible introduction of one of 2 additional statutory measures:

- A mandatory reporting duty, which would require certain organisations and any person working with children to report child abuse or neglect if they knew or had reasonable cause to suspect it was taking place
- A duty to act, which would require them to take appropriate action in relation to child abuse or neglect if they knew or had reasonable cause to suspect it was taking place

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reporting-and-acting-on-child-abuse-and-neglect>

Social Care

On *4th July 2016*, the government published a policy paper, **Putting children first: our vision for children's social care**.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/putting-children-first-our-vision-for-childrens-social-care>

Putting children first: our vision for children's social care

This paper sets out the government's reform programme for children's social care in England over the next 5 years; it builds on a previous paper published in January that outline the government's vision for reform.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-social-care-reform-a-vision-for-change>

Take-up of free nursery places for 2 year olds

In July 2016, an **Ofsted** survey was published which showed that last year around 80,000 eligible children did not take up their free place at an early years setting.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/helping-disadvantaged-young-children-ofsted-thematic-report>

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Reform Prisons

In May 2016, as part of the **Queen's Speech (2016)**, it was announced that more than 5,000 offenders will be housed in new **Reform prisons** by end of the year. In **Reform prisons**, governors will have:

- financial and legal freedoms, such as how the prison budget is spent and whether to opt-out of national contracts
- operational freedoms over education, the prison regime, family visits, and partnerships to provide prison work and rehabilitation services.

Eventually the government aims to use legislation to extend these freedom further - enabling prisons to be established as

independent legal entities with the power to enter into contracts; generate and retain income; and establish their own boards with external expertise.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-shake-up-of-prison-system-announced-as-part-of-queens-speech>

Education in Prisons

On 18th May 2016, Dame Sally Coates completed a review of education in prison. The report, **Unlocking potential: a review of education in prison**, sets out recommendations relating to

- the current accountability framework for delivering education
- the capacity of the workforce
- the learning needs of different types of prisoners
- the ability of prisoners to access higher level learning
- the potential for IT to support education
- services available to support prisoners to get employment and/or continue their education on release

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/524013/education-review-report.pdf

Review into racial bias in the criminal justice system

In March 2016 it was announced that David Lammy MP will lead a review into racial bias in the criminal justice system. Specifically this review will investigate evidence of possible bias against black defendants and other ethnic minorities in England and Wales. A final report will be published in spring 2017.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/review-into-racial-bias-in-the-criminal-justice-system>

[begins](#)

DRUGS/ALCOHOL

The Psychoactive Substances Act (2016)

The **Psychoactive Substances Act (2016)** came into force on 26th May 2016. The aim of this act is a blanket ban on so-called 'legal highs' and tough new enforcement powers. Sanctions under the act include:

- up to 7 years in prison for the supply, production, possession with intent to supply, importation or exportation of a psychoactive substance for human consumption
- up to 2 years in prison for possessing a psychoactive substance in a custodial institution
- prohibition and premises orders, which will allow police to shut down shops and online dealers in the UK, with up to 2 years in prison for those who fail to comply
- police powers to seize and destroy psychoactive substances, search people, premises and vehicles, and to search premises by warrant if necessary

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-law-to-tackle-legal-highs-commences-later-this-month>

IMMIGRATION

Immigration Act (2016)

On 13th May 2016, **The Immigration Act (2016)** became law. The 2016 act includes a range of new powers to:

- tackle illegal employment, including a new offence of illegal working

- prosecute landlords and agents who fail to carry out right to rent checks or fail to take steps to remove illegal migrants from their property
- electronically tag foreign national offenders on immigration bail
- restrict the support given to people whose claims for asylum have been rejected to those who are destitute and face a genuine obstacle to leaving the UK
- resettle unaccompanied children impacted by the ongoing migration crisis
- ensure all public employees in customer-facing roles are fluent in English, or in Wales fluent in English or Welsh
- impose a new skills levy on businesses bringing migrant labour into the country
- immigration enforcement officers will have new powers to search individuals and properties and seize identity documents if they suspect someone to be in the UK illegally

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/immigration-bill-receives-royal-assent>

To support the duty placed on all public authorities in scope to ensure that their customer-facing staff can speak fluent English, or in Wales fluent English or Welsh, the government have published a statutory code of practice and an impact assessment.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/written-ministerial-statement-on-english-language-requirement-july-2016>

International migration and poverty

On 29th July 2016, the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation**, published a report on the impacts of international migration on poverty in the UK.

The report shows:

- There are four key ways in which migration may affect the incidence of poverty – through the labour market, the cost of living, public services and public finances.
- These factors affect poverty in different ways, making it difficult to determine the ‘total’ impact of migration on poverty.
- Significant effects of migration on employment rates have not been found, but migration seems to have decreased wages in some low-wage jobs.
- Migration appears to reduce the cost of some goods and services, resulting in more affordable prices for low-income, UK-born people.

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/impacts-international-migration-poverty-uk>

HEALTH

Review of health and care data security and consent

On 4th July 2016, two independent reviews were published which make recommendations about data security in the health and care system in England and a new consent/opt-out model for data sharing.

1 CQC Review: **Safe data, safe care**

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20160701%20Data%20security%20review%20FINAL%20for%20web.pdf>

2 National Data Guardian Review: **Review of data security, consent and opt-outs**

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/535024/data-security-review.PDF

The government have indicated an intention to undertake a full consultation and dialogue with the public and professionals before any implementation of the recommendations can take place

CQC report of how NHS trusts investigate and learn from death.

The **Care Quality Commission (CQC)** – regulators of health and social care services – is currently undertaking a review of how NHS trusts investigate and learn from deaths; the review will be looking at NHS acute, community healthcare and mental health trusts. To assist with the review, CQC has launched a public consultation, which is open until *14th August 2016*.

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/our-review-how-nhs-trusts-investigate-and-learn-deaths>

The CQC aims to publish findings in December 2016.

NHS England Annual Report 2015-2016

In July 2016, the NHS annual report was published; this report describes the work of NHS England throughout 2015/16 and outlines key challenges and achievements.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publications/annual-report/>

HOMELESSNESS

Rough Sleeping Statistics (2015)

On *25 February 2016* the Department for Communities and Local Government released the 2015 figures on levels of rough sleeping across England.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-in-england-autumn-2015>

[h-sleeping-in-england-autumn-2015](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-in-england-autumn-2015)

Homeless Link, a national membership charity for organisations working directly with people who become homeless in England, have produced an analysis of these figures.

<http://www.homeless.org.uk/facts/homelessness-in-numbers/rough-sleeping/rough-sleeping-our-analysis>

HOUSING

Housing and Planning Act (2016)

The **Housing and Planning Act (2016)** became law on *13th May 2016*.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-housing-and-planning-bill-receives-royal-assent>

The measures include:

- the voluntary Right to Buy agreement with housing associations
- supporting the doubling of the number of custom and self-build homes by 2020
- tackling rogue landlords
- speeding up the neighbourhood planning process

Brownfield Register Pilots

In March it was announced that 73 councils across England will pilot one of the new brownfield registers, which will provide house builders with up-to-date and publicly available information on all brownfield sites available for housing locally.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-areas-to-push-for-faster-brownfield-land-development>

Those councils who are piloting the registers include:

- Leeds
- Sheffield
- Liverpool
- All Greater Manchester councils

MENTAL HEALTH

Increased Funding for Mental Health

In *February 2016* the final report of the **Mental Health Taskforce** was published.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Mental-Health-Taskforce-FYFV-final.pdf>

In response, the government committed an extra £1 billion to be invested in mental health care by 2021.

The recommendations to be delivered by 2021 include:

- end the practice of sending people out of their local area for acute inpatient care
- provide mental health care to 70,000 more children and young people
- supporting 30,000 more new and expectant mothers through maternal mental health services
- new funding to ensure all acute hospitals have mental health services in emergency departments for people of all ages
- increase access to talking therapies to reach 25% of those who need this support
- commit to reducing suicides by 10%

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-investment-in-mental-health-services>

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2016/02/fyfv-mh/>

In July 2016, NHS England published **Implementing the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health**.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2016/07/mh-imp/>

This document outlines the changes people will see on the ground over the coming years in response to the **Mental Health Taskforce's** February 2016 recommendations to improve care

Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust

Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust has been selected as the preferred acquirer of Manchester Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust. The acquisition is scheduled for *1st January 2017*.

<https://www.gmw.nhs.uk/news/gmw-has-been-selected-as-the-preferred-acquirer-of-manchester-mental-health-and-social-care-nhs-trust-1456/#.V59Ue7qrLIU>

SCHOOLS

Pupil Premium Awards: 2016-2017

Pupil premium funding allocations and conditions of grant for the financial year 2016 to 2017. Final funding allocation tables were calculated using January 2016 school census data and looked-after children numbers from the March 2015 children looked-after return. The conditions of grant show the conditions that academies and local authorities must meet to be able to receive the pupil premium.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2016-to-2017>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pupil-premium-information-for-schools-and-alternative-provision-settings>

WELFARE REFORM

Milestone for Universal Credit roll out

On 3rd May 2016, it was announced that **Universal Credit** is now in every jobcentre in the United Kingdom for single jobseekers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rollout-of-flagship-welfare-reform-universal-credit-reaches-historic-milestone>

To recap, **Universal Credit** will eventually replace:

- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Support
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credits
- Child Tax Credits
- Housing Benefit

Childcare Funding with Universal Credit

On 11th April 2016, it was announced that parents on **Universal Credit** will now be able to claim back 85% of their childcare costs when they move into work. This is an increase on the previous level which was 70%. The amount is capped at £646 a month for one child and £1,108 for 2 or more children.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/300-million-childcare-boost-for-hard-working-families-under-universal-credit>